X The Lesson of Berkeley

There is a letter appearing in this issue upholding the right of the CIA to recruit on campus. Invariably, with the emotional connotations attached to the CIA issue, many, if not most students, will disagree with that letter.

We would like to make our position clear now. We uphold the right of the CIA to recruit on campus, for the issue involved here is that of freedom—freedom for all, not just those who think like you. It is totally inconsistent to allow the Peace Corps or any other organization, be it government or private, to recruit, and not allow the CIA to do the same. Allowing the Peace Corps on campus, but not the CIA, is like allowing the Democrats or Republicans to speak but refusing other

political parties the same privilege.

Freedom must be based on the idea that though a person's viewpoint is contrary to yours, that person (or organization) has the right to present his own opinions. Inherently, freedom of speech implies that what holds for one, holds for the other. Either all organizations are given the privilege of campus recruitment, or none. Those who are working to keep the CIA off the campus are undermining the principle of freedom of speech. They are in effect saying, "We are deciding for you that the CIA must not be allowed to recruit on campus. You have no say in the matter."

Has the lesson of Berkeley been so poorly learned?